non-fulfilment of various norms of Directorate General of Civil Aviation. Caribjet, on their part, in pursuance of the provisions of the agreement took the matter to Arbitral Tribunal, London. The Arbitral Tribunal after hearing the evidence of both the parties, oral and written submissions, declared their award on 19.1.99 on the issue of liability.

The Arbitral Tribunal heard the submission on quantum from both the parties in London in June, 1999 and has given its interim award on 15.11.1999. The tribunal despite best evidences put forth, determined that loss of profit was payable to M/s. Caribjet and awarded a net compensation USD 23.63 Million (Rs. 103 crores) to M/s. Caribjet for the remaining portion of the lease.

(c) No efforts can be made to recover these losses as the payment has to be made to M/s. Caribjet under an award made under UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules by an International Arbitration Tribunal.

(d) Air India had approached the Reserve Bank of India and the tax Authorities for a No Objection Certificate to remit the monies under the award. The tax Authorities advised Air India to remit these monies into the Government Treasury pending determination of M/s. Caribjet's tax liability in India.

Providing of telephone in rural areas by private basic operators

*607. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private basic telephone operators have not been able to fulfil the commitment of providing telephone connections in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what action has been initiated against them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It has been observed that the investments by licensed private basic service telephone operators has so far been made in

urban areas only. These operators have been issued letters for achieving the targets committed by them for first 3 years of their licence within the prescribed period of 3 years of the licence. They have also been insisted upon to submit and adhere to a definite time bound quarter-wise roll out plan for clearing the backlog of missed targets of VPTs to discharge their committed obligations. It has also been made clear to them that there will not be any dilution in their committed performance obligations made by them in the licence agreement.

Delimitation of constituencies

*608. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the grounds on which the decision to defer delimitation of constituencies to the year 2026 has been taken; and

(b) in what manner Government propose to accommodate the need of selection of pockets for equitable representation of all the constituencies according to population and geographical situation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) As part of the National Population Policy, the Government has decided to extend the current freeze on undertaking fresh delimitation up to the year 2026 as a motivational measure to enable State Governments to fearlessly and effectively pursue the agenda for population stabilisation.

(b) The Government intends to discuss the proposal for delimiting the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies without affecting the number of seats allotted to a State with the leaders of all political parties.